

Iraqi government that is capable not just of supplying a government that unites all of the people of Iraq but also one that is capable of fielding security forces capable of conducting operations without dividing the country along the Shia and Sunni lines.

We also need more cooperation from Arabs in the region because they are immediately threatened. They are coming after the Crown in Saudi Arabia; they are coming after the Crown in Jordan. They are eventually going to move into Lebanon as well. They pose a real and present threat to all the nations in this region and they must act. We need their cooperation both militarily and diplomatically but also by using the megaphone that the government and state-run media provides to stigmatize this group by revealing them for who they truly are. There should be nothing romantic about ISIL in the minds of any Arab, about joining their ranks or their efforts. We need the government's help in spreading that word and revealing that reality.

By the way, we also need to work with them and other regional governments—especially the Turks—to help cut off ISIL's access to funds and to fighters. The Turks need to step up and do a better job of securing that border. Cutting off their funds requires us to go after their most significant source of funds and that is the refinery capacity in Syria. I will have more to say about that in a moment. We should target that because the black market sale of oil in Syria is the single and fastest growing source of revenue for ISIL, but it is also a fuel for their terrorist operations.

But ultimately there is no way to defeat ISIL without defeating them in Syria. Someone is going to have to confront them in Syria and defeat

them. It is my hope that it will be a combination of U.S. air power and qualified, well-equipped, well-trained competent moderate rebel forces within Syria, because here is the problem: If you eliminate ISIL but you don't have some sort of capable moderate group left behind, then all you are doing is replacing ISIL with al-Nusra or some other radical Islamic group on the ground there. So it is important that we do both.

I know no one wants to get into another conflict. We have no choice. We are going to have to deal with ISIL. The choice is not whether we deal with them. The choice is do we deal with them now while they are still growing or do we deal with them later when they have grown and when they have controlled vast and larger territories than they do now, when they have more fighters and are better funded. That is the choice before us.

I submit to you that I know of no medical condition that is easier to treat later rather than earlier. Every medical condition that I know—ISIL has been compared to cancer—every cancer that I know is easier to treat if you catch it earlier rather than later. I would say this is true with this cancer, ISIL. If we deal with them sooner, it will not be costless or fast, but it will be easier to deal with them then, than if we wait until later. But to do so will ultimately require someone to confront them and defeat them within Syria itself, and defeating them in Syria alone is not enough. We have to ensure that there is some group there on the ground, some moderate rebel force that can take over not just from them but from the Assad regime.

There is collusion between Assad and ISIL. The refineries that ISIL controls in Syria are former Assad refineries

which he won't bomb because he hopes to take them one day intact so he can use them. There is collusion between them. If anybody has any illusions about who Assad really is, I hope the President will outline this for us tomorrow. It is important for us and for our future.

I will make one more point about why this is the most important speech that the President will give. Because this threat will probably outlive his Presidency. We have to be prepared for the fact that ISIL may not be defeated in 24 months, that the next President of the United States and many of us—whether it is serving here, whether it is controlled by Republicans or Democrats—will have to remain committed to this goal, because this threat in all likelihood will outlive the Presidency of Barack Obama. It is important for him to put in place a clear goal and a plan that can survive his Presidency so that we can carry out this task. It is critical for our country.

I wish the President the best on his address tomorrow, and I hope we can come together in a bipartisan way to confront and defeat this evil before it is too late.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow under the provisions of S. Res. 539, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable James M. Jeffords.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.